

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH QUALIFIED BASIC
LIVING SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDERS THROUGH A REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to initiate a Request for Statement of Qualifications and enter into new agreements with qualified services providers who will provide basic living support services to adults who have mental illness and their minor children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of DMH, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a month-to-month contract extension Amendment for the existing 35 Basic Living Support Services (BLSS) Agreements, due to expire June 30, 2009, identified at an estimated cost of \$714,516 for the period of July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. The extension will allow sufficient time to complete the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) solicitation process and ensure uninterrupted availability and accessibility to BLSS.

Delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a Master Agreement, for the provision of BLSS with qualified service providers identified through the RFSQ solicitation process, and effective upon the date of execution through June 30, 2014, with an annual maximum County obligation of \$1,429,032. The funding, included in DMH's Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 Proposed Budget, consists of \$825,000 in County General Funds (CGF), \$112,000 in Intrafund Transfer from Department of Health Services-Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (DHS-ADPA), and \$492,032 in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds.

Approve and delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or his designee, to extend the term of the Master Agreements for two optional one-year periods from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

Authorize and delegate authority to the Director of DMH, or his designee, to add qualified agencies to the pool of service providers and execute agreements substantially similar to the Master Agreement.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

By approving these recommendations, your Board is authorizing DMH to issue a RFSQ. The RFSQ solicitation process will allow DMH to create a pool of qualified service providers, enter into agreements with various providers for the provision of BLSS, and add providers to the pool on an ongoing, as-needed basis.

Due to the influx of homeless adults with mental illness and their families in need of temporary emergency shelter, DMH previously used the Request for Information (RFI) process to execute agreements with service providers to provide BLSS services. On June 20, 2006, your Board approved agreements with qualified service providers for a term of one year, with provisions for two (2) automatic one-year renewal periods which will end on June 30, 2009. After further review, DMH determined the RFSQ solicitation process was a more appropriate process for obtaining a larger pool of qualified BLSS service providers.

The County provides BLSS which include temporary housing, food, clothing and toiletries provided on a 24-hour basis, 7 days a week. Selected contractors will provide temporary housing and other basic life necessities that are critical to helping homeless adults. The intent is to have these homeless adults who have a mental illness and their families move from homelessness to transitional or permanent housing. Without BLSS, many of these individuals will remain homeless or they will be incarcerated or hospitalized in County facilities.

BACKGROUND

According to Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in January 2007, the total number of homeless individuals and families in Los Angeles on any given night is approximately 68,608. Additional homeless count figures from Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena increases the total number of homeless individuals in Los Angeles County to 73,702. Of the 73,702, 33 percent are estimated to be chronically homeless, 31 percent have mental illness and over 42 percent abuse alcohol and/or drugs. These categories of homeless individuals are not mutually exclusive. Without BLSS which include temporary housing, many of these individuals will remain homeless or they will be incarcerated or hospitalized.

There are currently 35 BLSS Agreements with providers that are set to expire on June 30, 2009. In order to provide BLSS with minimal disruption to clients, DMH is requesting approval of a contract extension Amendment to the existing Agreements on a month-to-month basis not to exceed six months. The extension will allow DMH to complete the RFSQ solicitation process to identify a list of qualified BLSS providers who

demonstrate an ability to meet the requirements of the County and who are capable of providing the required services.

The effective date of the new BLSS Agreements established by RFSQ solicitation process will be upon the date of execution, contingent upon the submission of the requisite contract documents and meeting all contracting requirements.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Upon Board approval, DMH will release the BLSS RFSQ to solicit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from prospective service providers who meet the minimum qualifications listed on the BLSS RFSQ.

The solicitation will be posted on the Office of Small Business (OSB), County and DMH web sites and mailed to a number of prospective BLSS providers. Based on the evaluation criteria, DMH will select those providers who meet the RFSQ requirements. These potential contractors will be placed on a Master Agreement List used to enter into contracts based on client needs and geographic location.

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